

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dr. Charles Dunham, Deputy Director, Division of Biology & Medicine, Room 1309 T-3 Bldg. DATE: November 5, 1954

FROM : E. L. Wilber, Public Information Service *EWU*

SUBJECT: FILM FOOTAGE ON RELOCATION OF MARSHALL ISLANDS NATIVES

SYMBOL:

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED  
AUTHORITY: DOE-DEC: ELW  
BY: 12/19/84

Recently, when DMA asked you to concur on a memorandum to the task force indicating that AEC at this time had no specific need for a picture on the natives, you asked me to run down information on film on the subject. You have indicated that you wish to know where film is in the event there is a sudden need for it.

As you know, Lookout Mountain Laboratory, USAF, has a large batch of 16 mm color material on the entire native situation with regard to Castle. During the period of November 8-12 I shall be in Hollywood and will ask the Air Force to prepare and forward to me a listing of the rough footage. You will hear further on this aspect.

Last July, a 30-minute color film on the return of the Uterik natives and the relocation of the Rongelap people on Majuro was shown to the UN's Trusteeship Council by the U. S. representative, Mason Sears. It was a silent film, and Sears arranged that Frank Midkiff, then High Commissioner of Trust Territories, do a running commentary.

From State Interior personnel, it has been determined that the film was taken by officials of the Trust Territory (Midkiff's staff). Allegedly it is not professional quality material, but was timely for the UN showing. It is not believed there is a script of Midkiff's commentary.

It seems doubtful that the film is still in this country, and the Interior boys have advised that information on the whereabouts of the film and a possible transcript of Midkiff's remarks likely could be obtained from D. H. Nucker, Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, headquartered at Guam. I assume you will contact Nucker

Curtis Strong at State said that he thought it likely that State might well find need for another more updated picture for next summer's session of the Trusteeship Council. Obviously it would have to be shot in the field. Strong said that they might also want access to some of the Air Force footage. I told him I would attempt to get a listing here.

You may find that the "Midkiff" film has a future stop-loss worth. The US footage would take time to whip into usable shape, but if you have the fun Gaylord's unit no doubt would be glad to make a rough-cut film of whatever scenes (based on the list I hope to get) you think most advantageous. Or

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL

5000793

RESEARCH & APPLICATIONS

*Just this  
pb*

*Taken by Mr.  
Excellent quality  
no script.*

*is the only  
document I  
believe gets*

Dr. Charles Dunham

- 2 -

November 5, 1954

you might wish simply to pay for a single workprint of all the footage, or selected scenes -- something rough to have on hand here for emergency editing or evaluation.

At State I talked to Strong (Ext. 4347). At Interior to Bill Yeomans (Ext. 3414).

cc: Morse Salisbury, Director, DIS  
Capt. Wm. Guthrie, DMA  
John Hall, Special Projects